

REMARKS

A supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is submitted with this response.

An abstract on a separate sheet accompanies this amendment.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2, 11, 14, 17 – 21, 23, and 35.

Claims 1, 22, and 34 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claims 2, 23, and 35, respectively.

Claims 2, 23, and 35 are canceled.

Applicants respectfully submit that the incorporation of allowable subject matter into independent claims 1, 22, and 34 renders moot all pending rejections of the claims under 35 USC 102 or 103.

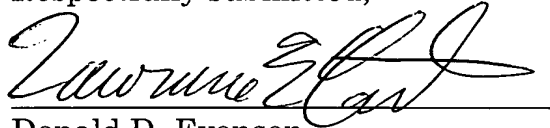
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt, favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #038724.52430US).

May 13, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald D. Evenson", written over a horizontal line.

Donald D. Evenson
Registration No. 26,160
Lawrence E. Carter
Registration No. 51,532

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844

DDE/LEC/acd